plurality of gaps are defined between adjacent affixed plates, wherein the gaps are approximately uniform in width, and wherein the gap width is approximately 2 to 5 mils.

86. (Amended) The fabric assembly of claim 84 wherein the substantially uniform thickness of the plurality of plates is approximately 2 mils.

100. (new) A fabric assembly comprising:

a first flexible substrate having a first plurality of continuous, non-overlapping plates affixed to a top surface of the first flexible substrate;

a second flexible substrate having a second plurality of continuous, non-overlapping plates affixed to a top surface of the second flexible substrate; and

a third flexible substrate having a third plurality of continuous, non-overlapping plates affixed to a top surface of the third flexible substrate, wherein the flexible substrates are arranged in a stack, and wherein each plurality of plates is arrayed in a pattern such that a plurality of gaps are defined between adjacent affixed plates.

101. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 100 wherein each plate is an equilateral hexagon and made of polymeric resin, and wherein each plurality of gaps are approximately uniform in width in the range of about 5 mils to 20 mils.

102. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 101 wherein each equilateral hexagon has an approximately uniform thickness in the range of about 5 mils to 20 mils.

103. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 102 wherein each

equilateral hexagon has a diameter in the range of about 60 to 80 mils.

104. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 102 wherein one of the pluralities of plates have a larger gap width and plate diameter than the other two pluralities of plates.

105. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 104 wherein the other two pluralities of plates each have a plate diameter in a range of 60 to 80 mils.

106. (new) A fabric assembly comprising:

a first flexible substrate having a first plurality of plates affixed to a top surface of the first flexible substrate; and

a second flexible substrate having a second plurality of plates affixed to a bottom surface of the second flexible substrate, wherein the first and second flexible substrates are arranged in a stack, the first and second pluralities of plates opposite facing, and wherein each plurality of plates is arrayed in a pattern such that a plurality of gaps are defined between adjacent affixed plates, each plate being continuous and non-overlapping.

107. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 106 further comprising a third flexible substrate between the first and second flexible substrates.

108. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 107 wherein the third flexible substrate comprises a woven fabric.

109. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 108 wherein the first and second flexible substrates comprise a woven material and the first

and second pluralities of plates comprise a polymeric resin.

110. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 109 wherein the third flexible substrate comprises nylon.

111. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 110 wherein each plate is an equilateral hexagon having a diameter equal or greater than 80 mils, the diameter selected to maintain flexibility and puncture-resistance of the fabric assembly.

112. (new) The fabric assembly of claim 110 wherein each plurality of gaps are in the range of 10 to 20 mils.